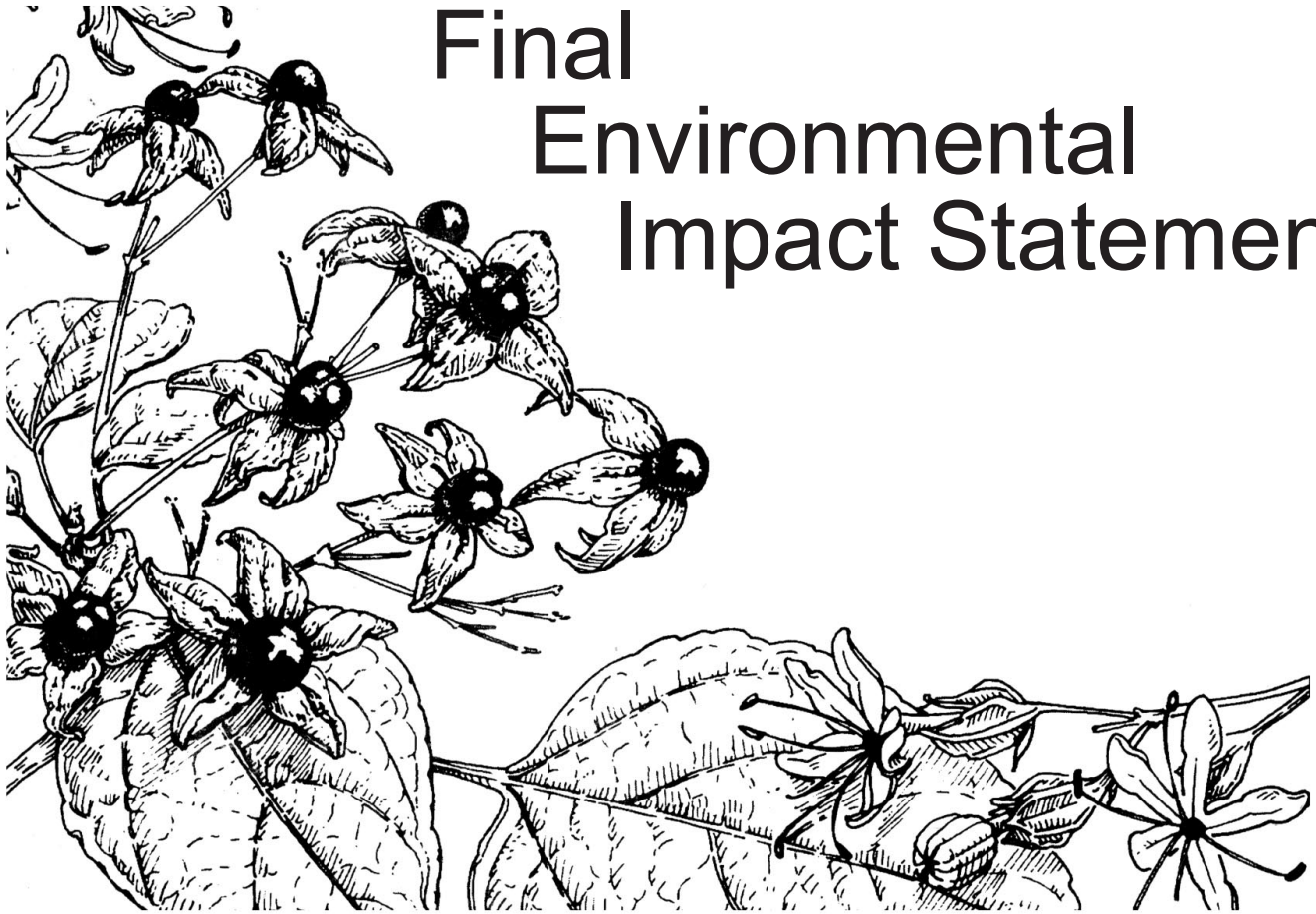


Final Environmental Impact Statement



Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan



January 2001

Note:

Some pages in this document have been purposefully skipped so that this document will copy correctly when duplexed.

Fact Sheet

Nature and Location of Proposal

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) proposes that the Seattle City Council and subsequently the University of Washington Board of Regents approve an updated master plan for the Washington Park Arboretum. Approximately 230 acres in area, the Washington Park Arboretum is located within the City of Seattle, both east and west of Lake Washington Boulevard East, between the Washington Park playfield and East Madison Street on the south, and Union Bay and State Route 520 on the north.

This environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates the physical aspects of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee's currently preferred alternative, referred to as the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee's proposed master plan. This master plan is the product of a design and review process that has taken several years, and reflects changes made in response to concerns raised after publication of the draft EIS. Key elements of the proposed master plan include the following:

- Renovation and expansion of existing facilities and construction of new facilities in the vicinity of the Graham Visitors Center, including additional parking
- Consolidation of parking at the north end of the Washington Park Arboretum closer to Graham Visitors Center
- Elimination of most of the small parking areas on Arboretum Drive East, and construction of new larger lots at each end
- Construction of a new combined educational and visitors services facility, at the south end of the Washington Park Arboretum near the Japanese garden, and expansion of the parking lot in that area
- Construction of a new pavilion and an entrance facility at the Japanese garden
- Renovation of 30 existing plant exhibits and creation of 21 new plant exhibits
- Reorientation of pedestrian trails
- Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle trail along Lake Washington Boulevard East

-
- Construction of two pedestrian overpasses, one over Lake Washington Boulevard East at the south end of the Washington Park Arboretum and one over Foster Island Road East at the north end of the park
 - Relocation of the northern one-third of Arboretum Drive eastward
 - Realignment of the north entry and the intersections of Lake Washington Boulevard East with Foster Island Road East, and with the on/off-ramps of State Route 520
 - Creation of a four-way intersection between Lake Washington Boulevard East, Arboretum Drive East, and a new entrance to the parking area south of the Japanese garden
 - Construction of four outdoor educational shelters
 - Other modifications and minor construction.

This EIS also evaluates approximately 30 alternative plan elements for specific facilities and actions included in the proposed plan and also evaluates the no-action alternative.

Proponent

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee

Date of Implementation

Seattle City Council action on the proposed master plan is expected early in 2001. The timing of implementation of the approved plan would depend on the availability of funding.

Responsible Official and Lead Agency

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Contact Person

Peter Marshall, Park Planner
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Required Permits and Approvals

Implementation of any of the alternatives other than the no-action alternative requires approval of the Seattle City Council. Depending on the council's decision on the master plan, one or more of the following permits may be required:

City of Seattle

- Shoreline substantial development permit
- Shoreline conditional use permit
- Building and grading permit

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Hydraulic project approval

EIS Authors

Herrera Environmental Consultants

- Document production
- Geology and soils
- Air quality
- Water resources
- Plants and animals
- Energy and natural resources
- Noise
- Land and shoreline use
- Recreation
- Historic and cultural resources
- Aesthetics
- Public services and utilities

KJS Associates

- Transportation

The Portico Group

- Visual renderings
- Master plan description

Date of Publication of Final EIS

January 4, 2001

Date of Final Action

Seattle City Council approval of a Washington Park Arboretum master plan is expected in early 2001.

Subsequent Environmental Review

No subsequent environmental review is anticipated prior to selection of an alternative for adoption and implementation. However, as implementation occurs, several individual projects would require master use permits that would include substantive State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decisions and other approvals from the Seattle Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use (DCLU). The table below shows several key aspects of the proposal and alternatives that would require master use permits with SEPA review because of the scale of development as it is outlined in the EIS.

Program Element	Master Use Permit Required with SEPA Review
Roadway reconfigurations (all)	No (see note below)
New pedestrian overpasses	No
New dual-use pedestrian & bicycle path	No
Arboretum Drive parking reconfiguration	Yes
Removal of Wilcox bridge parking	Yes
Added parking at Japanese garden	Yes
Graham Visitors Center – parking expansion	Yes
Woodland meadow – new parking	No
Removal of Foster Island Road parking	Yes
New Madrona Terrace parking	Yes
New south education & visitor services building	Yes
Graham Visitors Center – New curation building	Yes
Graham Visitors Center – New education building	Yes
Graham Visitors Center – Replacement of greenhouses & lath houses	Yes
New operations and maintenance buildings (2)	No
New open storage structures	No
New Japanese garden pavilion	No
New Japanese garden entrance building	No
New outdoor shelters	No

Roadway and path construction in parks does not generally require a master use permit, but in some cases, project-level environmental (SEPA) review could be required. Projects that require less than 500 cubic yards of grading would be exempt from SEPA review. Certain other exemptions apply to road projects, but the projects in this plan generally do not qualify for those exemptions.

In addition, development within environmentally critical areas or over water would require additional SEPA review in most cases. Shoreline permits would also be required for substantial development within 200 feet of Lake Washington.

As implementation occurs, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, as lead agency in consultation with DCLU, would evaluate this EIS and conduct additional environmental review, if necessary.

Location of EIS Background Data

Background information for this EIS is available for review at the office of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (see address of contact person above).

Cost to the Public for Copy of Draft EIS

Additional copies may be obtained at a cost of \$20 per copy by contacting Laurel Mercury, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, 800 Maynard Avenue South, Third floor, Seattle, Washington 98134 (telephone 206/684-7055).

In addition, the document can be reviewed at the following internet address under What's New:
www.cityofseattle.net/parks

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